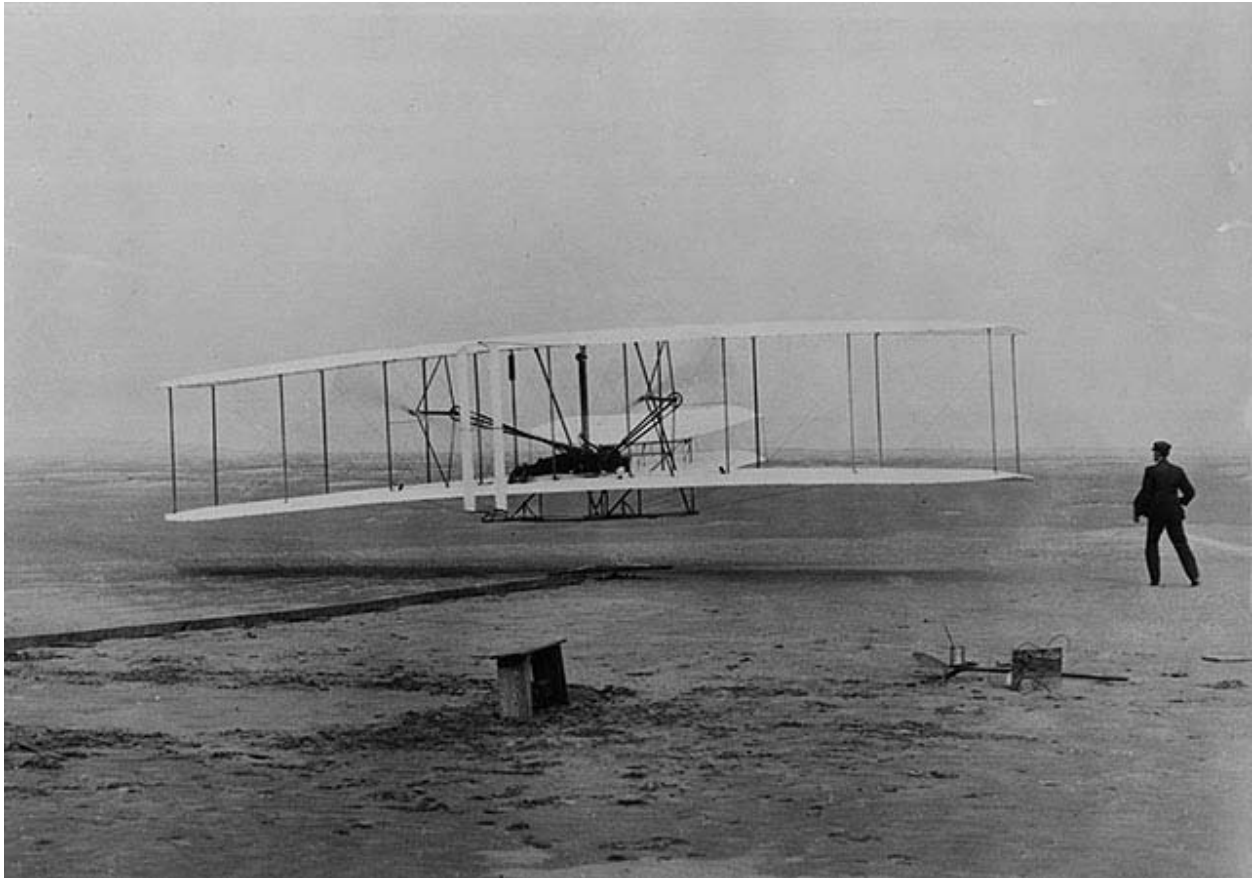


# **WRIGHT BROTHERS “MASTER PILOT AWARD” INFORMATION GUIDE**

FAA/FS-I-8700-2



**August 11, 2003**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**  
Flight Standards Service  
General Aviation and Commercial Division

## **PREFACE**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes the efforts of pilots who have followed and continue to follow the precaution and awareness of safe flight operations. Most of all, the FAA recognizes pilots who have contributed and maintained safe flight operations for 50 or more consecutive years of piloting aircraft.

Therefore, the FAA has a program set forth to recognize those pilots who have 50 or more consecutive years of safe flight operations: the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award Program. This information guide:

- Describes the award
- Describes the eligibility requirements to qualify for the award
- Explains how to submit an application
- Explains the selection process of candidates for the award

Robert A. Wright  
Manager, General Aviation and Commercial Division



## THE WRIGHT BROTHERS MASTER PILOT AWARD PROGRAM

**1. PURPOSE.** This information publication outlines the requirements for participation in the FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award Program. The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award recognizes pilots who have contributed to building and maintaining the safest aviation system in the world, through practicing and promoting safe flight for 50 consecutive years or more. The award is named in honor of Wilbur and Orville Wright, two early pioneers of flight.

**2. BACKGROUND.** Similar pilot awards with other names (such as the Golden Eagle Award) have been presented by various FAA Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO) over the years. The awards were issued to recognize local pilots who exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for 50 consecutive years or more as an active pilot. This national award consolidates these local awards into one national program.

**3. DESCRIPTION.** The award will be in the form of an FAA award certificate and lapel pin. In addition, a smaller version of the pin will be awarded to the spouse, if appropriate. The award certificate will be signed by the FAA Administrator. A "Roll of Honor" book with recipients' name, city, and State will be kept in a prominent place in the FAA Washington, D.C., headquarters building.

### 4. ELIGIBILITY.

**a.** To be eligible for the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, candidates must:

(1) Have completed either a flight review or equivalent within the 24 months before qualifying for the award, to verify currency as a pilot, in accordance with Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 61, section 61.56. This may include completion of a phase of the FAA Pilot Proficiency Award (WINGS) Program.

(2) Have held a CAA/FAA pilot certificate with:

- 50 consecutive years or more civil experience, or
- Up to 20 years of which may be military experience in combination with civil experience, to total 50 consecutive years

(3) Have three letters of recommendation from holders of FAA pilot certificates.

(4) Have been a U.S. citizen for the 50 consecutive years.

**b.** Revocation of any airman certificate will disqualify a nominee for this award.

**c.** Prior accident history will be considered and may be disqualifying.

**d.** Civil penalty or suspension will automatically disqualify a nominee for this award.

**5. APPLICATION PROCESS.** Anyone meeting the eligibility criteria, or anyone on behalf of an eligible person, may submit a Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award

nomination package to the local FSDO Safety Program Manager (SPM) at any time. The package must contain the following:

- a.** Completed Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award application form. (See Appendix 1.)

- b.** A resume or brief summary of aviation activities past and present to help document 50 years or more of pilot qualification.

**6. SELECTION PROCESS.** The SPM or operations supervisor will validate the nominee's qualifications through the Airmen Certification Branch, AFS-760, and/or the appropriate military authority or archive center. At least once each calendar year or as often as needed, the SPM will form a selection committee to review application forms with recommendation letters for eligibility and selection. The committee will consist of either three or five members who will choose those individuals qualified to receive the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.

- a.** There is no limit to the number of awards a FSDO can issue to qualified persons (one per pilot) within its geographic area of responsibility.

- b.** The award will be presented publicly at a suitable FAA or industry function.

- c.** The award may be presented posthumously for 2 years after the nominee's death.

**APPENDIX 1. APPLICATION FORM****WRIGHT BROTHERS MASTER PILOT AWARD APPLICATION FORM**

- 1) Nominee's name \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Address \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Telephone No.(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Grade of pilot certificate and ratings \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Pilot certificate No.(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Date of issue of current pilot certificate \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Date of original solo/student pilot certificate (if civil trained) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Date of original solo or designation as a military pilot \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Type of aircraft soloed in \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Place (and training organization if applicable) where initially soloed \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Beginning and ending dates (in calendar years) for the 50-year pilot experience period to be considered for this award \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Date of last flight review or equivalent per 14 CFR § 61.56 (within the 50-year period of service as a pilot to be counted for this award) \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) U.S. citizen?      Yes \_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_
- 14) Has the FAA pilot certificate ever been revoked or suspended? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If yes, provide details on the back of this application.
- 15) Has the nominee ever been assessed a civil penalty for a pilot or flight violation of 14 CFR? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ If yes, provide details on the back of this application.
- 16) Has the nominee ever had an aviation accident? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ If yes, provide details on the back of this application.
- 17) To help establish a period of 50 years of continuous pilot experience, please attach an aviation resume or a summary of the nominee's flying activity covering the award period.
- 18) Three letters of recommendation from certificated pilots. Attached? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
- Please return this nomination package to your nearest FAA FSDO Safety Program Manager*